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PLEASE RESPOND TO WASHINGTON ADDRESS

March 21, 2017

**GRANTED**

MAR 27 2017

Competition Policy Division  
Wireline Competition Bureau

For sixty (60) days

*[Handwritten signature]*

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 17-71: Request for Special Temporary Authority**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As a companion filing to this Request, Ligonier Telephone Company, Inc. ("LTC") and LigTel Communications, Inc. ("LCI"), (collectively the "Companies") and their current parent company, Heartland Innovations, Inc. ("Heartland") (collectively with the "Applicants"), by their undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214 (the "Act"), and Section 63.04 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or the "Commission"), 47 C.F.R. § 63.04, have filed a request for authority to transfer control of the domestic Section 214 authorizations held by the Companies (the "Application"). By this letter, the Applicants request Special Temporary Authorization seeking immediate authorization to continue operations under current ownership.

As noted in the Application, the Applicants seek to correct the inadvertent error of not seeking Commission approval of the transfer of control of LTC and indirectly the transfer of control of LCI.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the transfer of LTC occurred on January 15, 2005 when, upon the death of Dr. Robert P. Schloss on January 15, 2005 (who was then a minority shareholder of

<sup>1</sup> At the time of the transfer of control, LTC was the parent company of LCI and is now, along with LCI, a wholly owned subsidiary of Heartland arising from a January 1, 2017 pro forma transfer of control. As a result of the Companies' planned corporate reorganization, Heartland was formed and, on January 1, 2017, Heartland established LTC and LCI as separate wholly-owned subsidiaries. The ownership of Heartland, an Indiana corporation formed for the purpose of reorganization, is the same as that previously for LTC. Specifically, the former shareholders of LCI's parent company, LTC, exchanged their shares of LTC for shares of Heartland. As a result of the reorganization, both LCI and LTC are wholly owned subsidiaries of Heartland, and the shareholders of Heartland, after the reorganization, are identical to the previous shareholders of LTC.

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
March 21, 2017  
Page 2

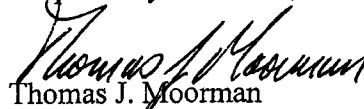
LTC but controlled the operations of the Companies), the voting interests of his wife, Meshell L. Schloss exceeded fifty percent (50%).<sup>2</sup>

Since January 15, 2005 the LTC has continued to provide high quality, modern local exchange and exchange access services and LCI continued to provide high quality resold long distance services, each in a manner that was transparent to the customers they served. Grant of this request for Special Temporary Authorization will ensure that the Companies will continue to provide on an uninterrupted basis the services they offer to their customers. Applicants expressly acknowledge that grant of this request will not prejudice action by the Commission on the underlying Domestic and International 214 Applications and that any authority granted pursuant to this request is subject to cancellation or modification upon notice but without a hearing.

Good cause exists for grant of the instant request, which would ensure that consumers would not suffer inconvenience or loss of service, or otherwise be affected adversely. Having become aware of the failure to make the necessary transfer of coronel filings, the Applicants have voluntarily attempted to and are taking all steps necessary to rectify the situation. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the public interest would be served by a prompt grant of the instant request. The Applicants, in good faith, intend to comply on a going-forward basis with the Commission-prescribed transfer of control requirements applicable to LTC's and LCI's respective operations.

Applicants request that the STA be granted for a period of sixty (60) days to permit the Commission to complete its processing of the pending domestic 214 application in due course. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Moorman  
Counsel to Ligonier Telephone Company, Inc., LigTel  
Communications, Inc. and Heartland Innovations, Inc.

Attachments

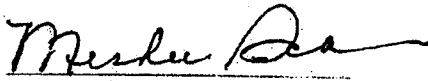
cc: D. Johnson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission (via email)  
D. Krech, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (via email)

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<sup>2</sup> Ms. Schloss was the executor of Dr. Schloss's estate (the "Estate"). Coupled with her personal holding of LTC stock, the stock that she voted of the Estate exceeded fifty percent (50%). A portion of the stock within the Estate was distributed to Ms. Schloss on January 1, 2007, with the remaining portion of LTC stock being distributed to a Trust which designated Ms. Schloss as the Trustee and sole beneficiary. Accordingly, Ms. Schloss's voting percentages has remained constant since the death of her husband in 2005.

# DECLARATION

I, Meshell L. Schloss, President of Ligonier Telephone Company, Inc. and LigTel Communications, Inc. (the "Companies"), do hereby declare under penalties of perjury that I have read the foregoing Request for Special Temporary Authorization, and the information contained therein regarding the Companies is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.



Meshell L. Schloss

President

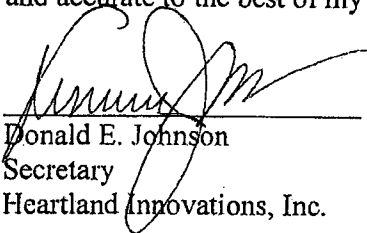
Ligonier Telephone Company, Inc.

LigTel Communications, Inc.

Date: 3/21/17

### DECLARATION

I, Donald E. Johnson, Secretary of Heartland Innovations, Inc. (the "Company"), do hereby declare under penalties of perjury that I have read the foregoing Request for Special Temporary Authorization, and the information contained therein regarding the Company is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.



Donald E. Johnson  
Secretary  
Heartland Innovations, Inc.

Date: 3/21/2017